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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Background Information on KIM Il-sŏng

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1. From 1947 to October 1950, KIM Il-sŏng had his official residence in the house formerly belonging to a Japanese named HIROTA in the Namsan-dong section of Pyongyang. He also had a villa which he occasionally used for relaxation at Chasiwon (?Chasan-ni), near Yokpo (125-46, 30-55).*
2. In his city residence, the domestic staff included twenty servants, of whom five were cooks. KIM's relations with the staff were good, and he would occasionally step into the kitchen to discuss the method of cooking some dish or to demonstrate it, for cooking was his hobby. His conversation with the staff was limited to this subject.
3. KIM preferred all kinds of meats to other foods and ate fish and vegetables only rarely. A basic item of each meal was rice mixed with Indian millet. His favorite food, however, was dogmeat stuffed with chicken, which he demanded every day at both the morning and evening meals.*** It was rumored in Pyongyang that his fondness for this dish was responsible for his growing obesity.
4. Between 1947 and October 1950, KIM's health was excellent. He worked at his office every day of the week and never missed a day during that three-year period. He smoked moderately and drank little, preferring wine. He regularly retired at 2200 hours and rose at 0400 hours.
5. KIM played tennis enthusiastically and excelled in the sport and also often went horseback riding. Occasionally he would split firewood for exercise. He was an excellent pistol shot and practiced as frequently as time would allow. He did not know how to drive a car. He preferred Russian folk dances of all types to other forms of dancing but from time to time would join in western-style social dancing with his wife or guests at official functions. He occasionally attended Kisaeng parties at a restaurant in the Mangyongdae section of Pyongyang, but only two or three times a year, and never held such functions at his own residence. He entertained high-ranking Soviet and Chinese Communist officials from the embassies frequently.

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6. [redacted] members of KIM's family and government personnel were evacuated from Pyongyang. [redacted] KIM burned all the documents at his residence, while Labor Party and government documents were being burned at the offices. On 8 October, he made a radio speech encouraging the North Koreans to further resistance; he appeared to his domestic staff to be greatly excited. On the following day, he left his residence for an unannounced destination, taking only one of his books with him and leaving the rest of the household to take care of itself.

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* [redacted] Comment: [redacted] another source placed KIM's residence at Yongak-san. [redacted] KIM was living in Kosanjin.

** [redacted] Comment: There is a popular belief in Korea that dogmeat maintains virility.

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